SOUTH VIET NAM In struggle

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

5th Year

No 88

February 10 1971

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APR 6 1971
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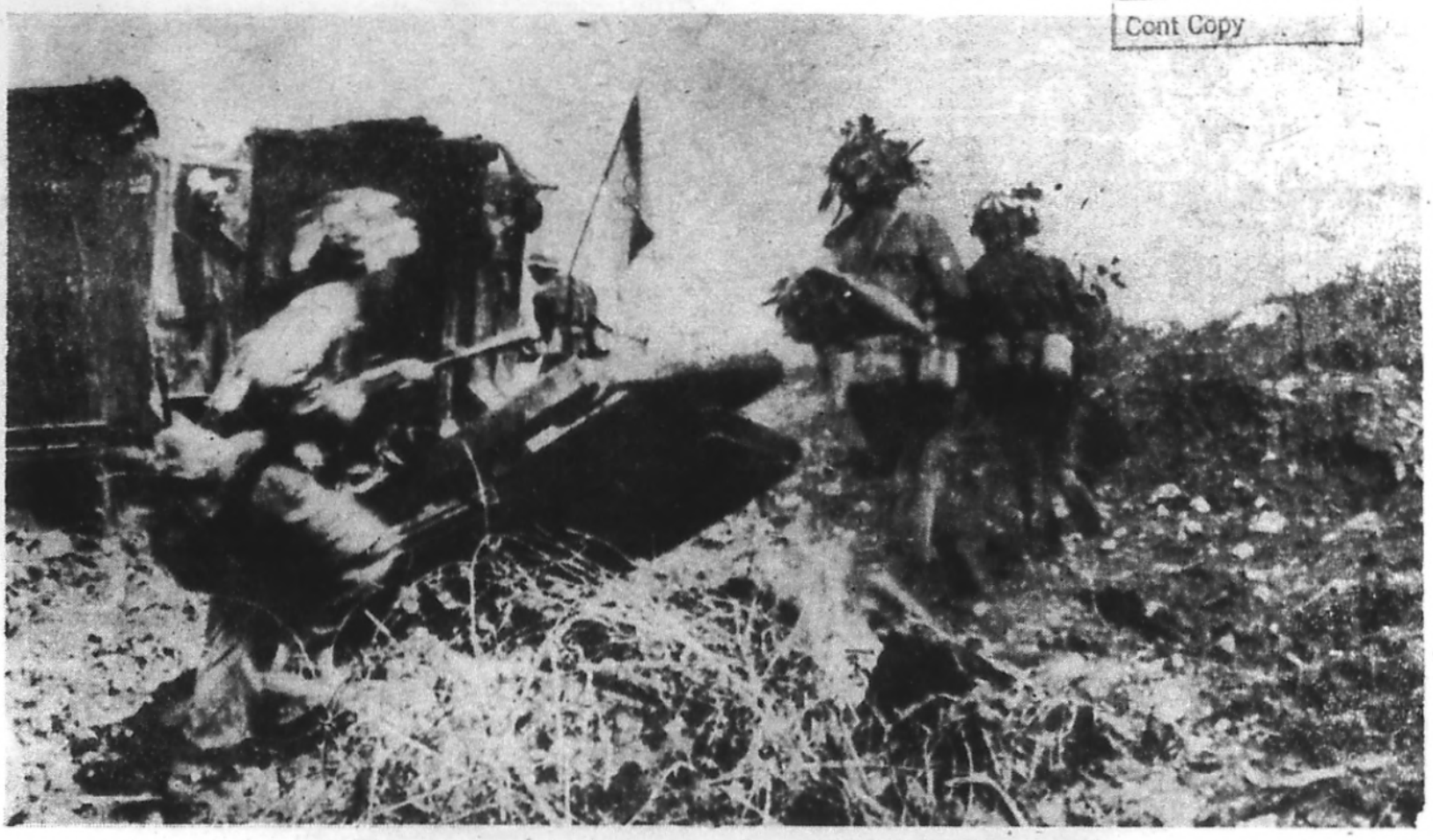


Born in the midst of a revolutionary commotion, the PLAF have marked all historical stages with magnificent victories.

editorial

an army of the people

THE South Vietnamese people have honoured their Liberation Armed Forces — their cherished scion—with this six-word motto: "Boundlessly loyal, uncannily courageous, splendidly successful."

Our friends in the world have flatteringly dubbed them "invincible army" or "ever-victorious forces," and the western press, "a past master in guerilla warfare," "a great guerilla fighter," "a good violinist," "a boxer with an eye in the back of the head," etc. The enemy of the South Vietnamese people themselves call them "booby-trap master" or "talented guerillas."

The love of their fellow-countrymen and the affection of their friends, even the hatred of their opponent, are a major source of inspiration for the PLAF in the fulfilment of their combat duty for the defence of their Fatherland of which they have proved a worthy revolutionary army.

Those tokens of admiration have not been prompted by a biased sympathy but by real feat. Born in the midst of a revolutionary commotion, the PLAF have in effect endured sacrifices for the revolutionary cause, shown their capabilities, virtues, intelligence, resourcefulness and infinite faithfulness, grown up rapidly, and made big advances in every respect.

From small units equipped with rudimentary weapons, at present the PLAF do not only comprise three categories of armed forces — the regular army, the regional troops and the guerillas; they also consist of many arms and services with a modern equipment and advanced tactical methods, which, in coordination with the people, have shipwrecked all of the Pentagon's brutal strategies, and sophisticated tactics, thereby making the chieftain of imperialism — who wields the world's first military power — look like a clay-footed giant.

The PLAF have marked all historical stages with magnificent achievements. As a result, US "special war" strategy has gone down in history as a stinging shame, US "limited war" strategy as a dismal failure, and its current "Vietnamization" plan has already tasted defeat.

Many US military strategists have been at a loss for an answer to this nagging question: why can't the United States, with all its might, its up-to-date weaponry and elaborate strategy and tactics, win a military victory, and has instead suffered one setback after another?

They lay the blame for US unsuccesses on the puppet army's lack of dynamism, on Saigon generals' corruption, on American troops' combat weariness and fondness of drugs! They find fault with Viet Nam's inclement weather and rugged terrain unfit for US modern military techniques, and even with interpreters' inaccurate translations!

Clearly, the American imperialists cannot see the wood for trees. They cannot reconcile themselves to the bitter truth that their very aggression brings on them all their reverses. In assaulting Viet Nam, they not only bumped their heads against an army versed in action against aggression who had just smitten the French colonialists, but against an entire people who had never submitted to brutal force and arbitrary rule, a people with glorious traditions of resistance to foreign invasion throughout their 4,000 years of national construction and defence, and whose habitual strategy against invasion has invariably been the "people's war."

In the South Viet Nam PLAF, the American aggressors have been facing an army heir to the mettle of the victors of the Bach Dang River, Dong Da and Dien Bien Phu battles; Ngo Quyen's and Tran Hung Dao's art of ambush, Le Loi's protracted-war strategy, Nguyen Trai's "three-spearhead" tactics (armed fighting, political action and agitation among adverse troops), Quang Trung's lightning troop deployment and destruction of the enemy,

(Continued on page 2)

Still no way out from the Rue Kleber conference room

100 sessions later

A hundred sessions and two years later, the Paris Conference on Viet Nam is still marking time.

To seek a peaceful settlement of the South Vietnamese problem on the basis of respect for the sacred national rights and the right to self-determination of the people of South Viet Nam, the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN—the authentic, lawful representative of this people—sent a delegation to the Paris Conference, and put forward a 5-point position on November 3, 1968, a 10-point overall solution on May 8, 1969, and a declaration elucidating the two proposals on September 17, 1970. At the 94th session—December 10, 1970—once again the PRG delegation showed its goodwill with a 3-point statement on an eventual ceasefire. The solution advanced by the NFL and the PRG is logical and sensible, for it only requires due US regard for the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese. The logic of the said solution is this: being the aggressor, the US must end its aggression, and having illegally brought American and satellite troops into South Viet Nam for aggressive purposes, it must totally and unconditionally pull out these troops of aggression and let the people of South Viet Nam settle their own affairs without its interference. With a view to resolving these two key questions in the context of the present situation in South Viet Nam, the NFL and the PRG have made concrete offers, opened the door to US withdrawal and a political settlement of the South Vietnamese problem with due consideration for the right to self-determination of the people of South Viet Nam.

The position prompted by justice and the logical and sensible overtures of the NFL and the PRG have been warmly welcomed by our people and have won the sympathy and support of world and American opinion.

Nevertheless, Nixon continues standing to his guns, refusing to meet the South Viet Nam people's logical claims, prolonging and pushing up US aggressive war. Over the past two years, he has dealt with the Vietnamese issue in virtually all his messages, speeches and prepared or impromptu meetings with the press. His greatest pieces of deception have been the 8-point declaration on May 14, 1969 and the 5-point "peace initiative" on October 7, 1970. His position and that of the American delegation at the Paris Conference, presented in differing ways and with different rhetorics both essentially deny the fundamental national rights and the right to self-determination to the South Vietnamese people.

In doing so, Nixon has set his face against the principle of the pull-out of US troops from South Viet Nam and put forward the fantastic "mutual withdrawal" proposal, thereby placing on the same footing the aggressor — the US imperialists, and the resister against aggression — the people of South Viet Nam.

Nixon's policy has also been to drag on US military occupation of this country by means of piecemeal phased cutbacks. His declaration at the January 4, 1970 press conference, as well as Laird's statements during his Saigon trip have betrayed this design. To this was added a new conjuring trick of the US President — the "ending of American troops combat duty" in South Viet Nam toward late spring 1971. If Nixon's stunt comes true by that time, 284,000 GIs will remain, not including 70,000 men from US satellites, and US forces of the 7th Fleet and those stationed in Thailand's military bases directly involved in the war. The Americans said all these troops would only assume support and logistical responsibilities. According to US military specialists in Saigon, however, the remaining US forces will be combat troops (*AFP*, Jan. 7, 1971). And this will be by far superior to the 180,000-strong French expeditionary corps during the Indochina war, superior also to that of the USA itself at the initial stage of its "special warfare" in South Viet Nam, not to mention nearly one million mercenaries of the Saigon army. With over a million combat troops under US command, it is sheer nonsense to assert that "the war is coming to an end"!

Of the United States objective, Nixon said: "Where peace is unknown, make it welcome. Where peace is fragile, make it strong. Where peace is temporary, make it permanent" (Inaugural speech, January 21, 1969). Realities have nevertheless administered the proof that Nixonian peace is nothing else than armed aggression against Cambodia, prolongation and intensification of the war of aggression against South Viet Nam and Laos, and war ventures against the DRVN, an independent and sovereign country.

Nixon and the US representatives at the Paris talks have been harping on "ensuring for the people of South Viet Nam the right to decide themselves their future without outside interference," and affirming that the "only unnegotiable things is the right of the people of South Viet Nam to decide themselves their political future." The US Chief Executive has been behaving as though he was a close friend of the South Viet Nam people, one with much "concern" over their future. In fact, though, he has been, as best he could, cleaving to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, installed by the US as an instrument of aggression, which the *International Herald Tribune* (Sept. 18, 1969) said had no bases in the masses, and was a kind of US puppet. The Nixonian "right to self-determination" is nothing short of compelling the South Vietnamese people to recognize the Thieu-Ky-Khiem trio of traitors which, on behalf of the USA, rules over South Viet Nam along the US colonialist line.

Holding on to Thieu, Ky and Khiem, Nixon has been pushing them to oppose the formation of a provisional coalition government, a structure necessary to the US troop withdrawal and the holding of free general elections in South Viet Nam. Nixon, too, has spoken of free general elections while insisting that they be organized by US native agents, at US-puppet gunpoint. Elections in such conditions would naturally result in the establishment of a rule at US beck and call and on US payroll in South Viet Nam.

While eluding the two above-mentioned principle-like points, the Nixon administration has been trumpeting the "ceasefire" and war prisoners' issues in order to mislead public opinion and defend both his criminal policy of aggression in South Viet Nam and its fascist brutalities against anti-war elements in the US.

If Nixon is really attached to the American people and values American lives, he should stop the killing by Americans and thereby the killing of Americans; he should agree to the withdrawal of American troops before June 1971, which would not only solve the US captured militarymen and ceasefire questions, but also provide facilities to ensure security for US withdrawing forces. When Nixon has proved to be unscrupulous enough to order slayings of his fellow-countrymen right in the streets, his "concern over the fate of war prisoners" raises a big question mark.

The people of South Viet Nam have gone through more than a quarter-century of war and endured boundless sacrifices. They have peace at heart, but this must be peace in genuine independence and freedom.

Should the United States government want to settle the Vietnamese problem by peaceful means, our people will be prepared to help it end the war with honour. On the contrary, should Nixon, impervious to the lessons of his past repeated fiascos, want to go on threading his criminal war path in an attempt to materialize his aggressive ambition, he will bear full responsibility for his behaviour.

an army of the people

(Continued from page 1)

the Viet Nam People's Army's strangulation of the Dien Bien Phu entrenched camp, etc.

The US imperialists have been grappling with an army born of the people, led by the people and fighting for the people, an army proficient in the combined use of rudimentary and sophisticated weapons, of its revolutionary spirit and resourcefulness to outwit its opponent, and in keeping the initiative of continual offensives.

The US imperialists have been confronting an army whose objective is the liberation of its Fatherland to which it is infinitely faithful, and who has set on foot the "seek out GIs and puppet troops to wipe them out" movement and has been strictly following the "grapple the enemy to beat them" guideline.

At the same time the US imperialists have been committing an immoral offence which clashes with the traditions of the American nation and tries to put back the clock, in mounting an armed aggression against Viet Nam, with its sequel of devastation and death for Vietnamese and Americans alike, setting both of them, and the peoples the world over as well, against the US rulers.

It is for this reason that the US imperialists have suffered and will inevitably suffer, humiliating failures that no machiavellian plot nor reactionary force can ward off.

Washington—a builder of the present United States of America—made himself a good name in history because he carried the day in a war of liberation against the British invaders and in his effort to turn American troops into a disciplined and victorious army. Nixon, like Johnson before him, sent out forces to kill people attached to peace, liberty and independence like Washington. Like the British imperialists of the 18th century, he will meet with a tragic end.

Like the Americans in their liberation war the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces are battling for the independence and freedom of their Fatherland; for this reason they have become an invincible and victorious army.

An army dedicated to the great cause of its nation is bound to win because they are the army of the people, born of the people and fighting for the people.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

US air marauders duly punished

COMPANY leader Ha Trong Thai was leading his four A-A batteries up one-third of a hilly slope when an enemy OVIO reconnaissance plane flew in for the second time and banked to scrutinize the ground surface. It was soon followed by 8 armed choppers and a flight of two A4's which circled above the place looking for the spy-commando that our troops had been rounding up in these mountains.

Supported by his men's resolve, Thai made a daring move in planting his unit on this sloping height which commanded the whole area. The enemy had successively thrown here spy-commandoes and "Task force" units, and various types of aircraft, in an effort to spot our batteries and forestall our actions.

It was high noon. The enemy gunships and A4's once again swarmed in, to rescue the beleaguered spy-commando, but one chopper and one A4 were hit by the First Company's fire while nosediving to rocket our positions. The wounded craft limped eastward, and again the OVIO recon-plane roared in. It moved round again and again, now dropping from a 2,500-metre altitude down to 1,500 metres, now veering and zigzaging toward the slope where our batteries had taken position. An experienced commander, Thai was in no hurry to attack. As he rightly anticipated it, the OVIO plane veered and banked to reconnoitre the mountain slope, and fell into the batteries range.

"Fire!" Hardly had the order been given when two volleys were discharged and hit home. The recon-plane had its wings completely smashed, their debris littering the ground. Three pilots bailed out, but only one succeeded in opening his parachute, while the two others crashed against the rocks. A furious engagement thereupon broke out. 30 enemy aircraft of all kinds were sent in to save the surviving airman.

A golden opportunity had now offered itself: Company leader Thai and squad commanders Dan and Thien rushed to each battery, encouraging their men and directing their fire. A dozen more choppers were called in plus two "flying cranes" and three OVIO. Two groups of aircraft thus encircled our positions: one of jet planes in the outer perimeter, and one of screw-propelled planes in the inner one. Versatile methods of combat were used by them, including enveloping, splitting and diverting moves.

The whole battlefield was wrapped in thick smoke. Sure of their 4 AA batteries, officers and men of the First Company kept their heads cool in face of the enemy's apparent strength, and calmly and accurately foresaw the moves of the enemy planes. Versed in the art of camouflage and skilled in the manning of the guns, they kept the initiative firm in their hands and sprang repeated surprise attacks on their adversaries.

A "flying crane" took advantage of the confusion, broke through the smoke screen and dived all of a sudden into a crevice of the mountain in an attempt to rescue the grounded flier. A barrage of gunfire spurted up while a second OVIO struck by a shot smashed headlong against the other side of the rock, the "flying crane" and the other A4's were tightly surrounded by our artillery fire.

As a group of A4's was crossing the battlefield, two batteries standing high on the left of the slope spat fire and cut down the first-coming aircraft. The second one rushed from the right, and came within the range of Nguyen Van Min's guns. Fire! As a cluster of CBU's was released, the US plane began staggering, then fell down on the edge of the wood where it exploded into pieces. Thus four US aircraft were in no time shattered in this narrow valley, not counting two others which were pranged on the other side of the mountain.

The formation of the remaining enemy planes became visibly upset by the blows they had received without being able to fulfil their rescue mission. They now sprayed toxic chemicals on our positions. Some numbers of Nguyen Huu Thuc's unit which was positioned at the left side of the mountain were hit by the spray. Burning with hatred, Bui Van Phuc tore off his shirt and soaked it with water. The shirt was passed on to his mates as a preventive against intoxication while Phuc himself relayed the other wounded artillerymen and blazed away at the enemy planes.

The "flying crane" swiftly broke through a cloud from smoke bombs toward the American airman. As it was too low, Thuoc could not zero in, grasping a machinegun, he darted down the slope. A cord ladder was dropped for the Yank while mortars and guns of all calibres spat fire on Thuoc who nevertheless continued shooting at the "flying crane." From behind the trees and mountain rocks, his machinegun's barrage forced the craft to 300m. Then came from the South-West two A4's which, by their intensive 20 mm bullet fire, covered the "flying crane" which snatched the downed pilot at the dangerous spot. But the Company's 4 AA batteries and Nguyen Huu Thuoc's machine gun, concerting their attacks, brought down with one round an A4 and the "flying crane" as well. That was the 7th and 8th US aircraft bagged by the expert artillerymen from the First Company, wiping out both the grounded Yankee and all his rescuers.

CAO CAN

VICTORIES OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE

AP BAC: (in My Tho, on January 2, 1963) enemy "heliborne" and "armoured cars" tactics foiled, 450 American dnd puppet troops wiped out, 19 aircraft and 3 armoured vehicles destroyed or damaged, the bankruptcy of "special war" portended.

BA GIA: (in Quang Ngai, on May 31, 1965) a puppet army column put out of action, marking the total flop of the US "special war."

NUI THANH: (in Quang Nam, on May 28, 1965) the regional army for the first time knocked out a company of US marines, initiating the "Seek the US Aggressors and Wipe Them Out" drive.

VAN TUONG: (in Quang Ngai, on August 18, 1965) the first big operation by nearly 10,000 US marines beaten off, 919 GIs killed or wounded, 23 tanks and 23 aircraft destroyed or damaged.

WINTER-SPRING 1965 - 1966: the first strategic dry-season counter-offensive of the US-puppets fought off with 114,000 enemy casualties (including 43,000 GIs and mercenaries), 1,440 aircraft shot down or destroyed, 1,310 military vehicles (including 330 tanks and other armoured cars), destroyed or damaged, 27 war vessels or combat launches sunk or shot afire.

WINTER-SPRING 1966-1967: The second strategic US-puppet dry-season counter-offensive frustrated, 175,000 enemy soldiers (including 85,000 Americans and mercenaries) put out of action, 1,800 aircraft shot down or wrecked, 3,895 military vehicles (including 1,785 tanks and other armoured cars) destroyed or damaged, 100 war vessels or combat launches sunk or shot ablaze.

The biggest win in that Winter-Spring campaign was scored against Operation "Junction City" involving more than 46,000 GIs in Tay Ninh from February 22 to March 15, 1967, with 200 tanks and other armoured vehicles, 200 artillery pieces, over 11,000 enemy troops mostly Americans, more than 900 military vehicles including 700 armoured cars put out of action, 143 aircraft grounded or set on fire.

SUMMER-AUTUMN 1967: The enemy plan to fall back on to the defensive to recuperate baffled a toll of more than 143,000 enemy troops (including over 68,900 GI's and mercenaries), exacted 1,400 aircraft, 3,100 military vehicles (including 1,200 tanks and other armoured cars) and 197 war vessels or combat launches destroyed or damaged.

MAU THAN SPRING OFFENSIVES: (from February 1st to April 15, 1968): More than 200,000 adverse casualties (including 60,000 GIs and mercenaries); 2,500 aircraft shot down or destroyed, 4,500 military vehicles (including 2,300 tanks or other armoured cars) destroyed or damaged; 330 war vessels or combat launches sent to the bottom or set afire.

With the victory in early Spring 1968, the Liberation Armed Forces switched over to a new strategy: widespread offensives and uprisings.

KHE SANH: (from January 20 to July 9, 1967) sealed the fate of the US tactics of defensive clusters of strongholds; nearly 17,000 enemy troops (including 13,000 Americans) wiped out; 480 aircraft shot down; 120 military vehicles, 55 cannons and mortars destroyed.

KY DAU EARLY SPRING: (from February 22 to March 28, 1969): 104,000 enemy (including 56,000 GIs and mercenaries) knocked out; 1,600 aircraft downed or destroyed, 2,900 military vehicles (including 1,440 armoured cars) wrecked or damaged; 275 war vessels or combat launches sank or set afire.

An initial setback inflicted on US-puppet "accelerated pacification" plan.

SPRING-SUMMER 1970: 230,000 enemy troops put out of action; 4,200 aircraft and 10,000 vehicles destroyed or damaged.

Since early 1970 with annihilation actions coordinated with smashing assaults on their coercive apparatus and pulling down of large chunks of strategic hamlets, the South Vietnamese army and people have step by step defeated various US-puppet "pacification" schemes, from "accelerated pacification" to "special pacification."

The TUA HAI BATTLE, a historic victory

TUA HAI was a very important position of the enemy about 2km from Tay Ninh provincial capital. Lying on Highway number 22 and defended by a regiment of puppet troops, it was a springboard from which to mount attacks on, and carry out terror against, and exert control of; the local population.

To survive the South Vietnamese people had to rise up against the US - Diem rule, before all to wipe out Tua Hai position, seize weapons to arm themselves, break their grip and build a resistance base.

To ensure success, the revolutionary forces had to make careful and strenuous preparations, elaborating a plan of action, getting the equipment, supplies and the man power needed. Hundreds of great-size mines and thousands of hand-bombs and hand-grenades were turned out day and night by patriotic workers from dud bombs and shells left by the French colonialists during the former war of resistance.

On the night of January 5, 1960, the revolutionary forces set out for an assault on Tua Hai. As soon as they reached the battle ground, something unexpected took place: the enemy had sent 2 regiments to the Tua Hai area from Tay Ninh, the first having gone not more than a kilometre beyond the stronghold, the second being about 700 metres from it. But after check-up, the patriotic commanders made sure that the enemy were still in the dark as to our intention and were deploying for a raid before the "Tet" festival.

With a single eye to their mission, the patriotic forces, divided into detachments, daringly broke into the stronghold. The petard-task force of the revolutionary army quickly occupied the key positions as planned.

At 0.30 a.m. on January 6, 1960, all the enemy CPs in Tua Hai came under furious fire at the same time. The whole enemy commanding system was crippled at the very start of the rush.

The revolutionary forces made deep thrusts into the position and split the defenders and knocked them out group by group. Taken unawares, hundreds of puppet troops laid down their arms in compliance with the patriotic forces' call to surrender.

While Tua Hai stronghold was being stormed the two enemy regiments were also struck at and badly mauled and dared not come in rescue of the battered troops.

After more than an hour's violent fighting, the revolutionary army completely controlled the battlefield, took a toll of more than 1,000 enemy troops, seized thousands of firearms of different types and a large quantity of ammunition and military equipment. The weapons captured from Tua Hai were later distributed to various districts in the area to equip the regional armed units — predecessors of the People's Liberation Armed Forces.

The Tua Hai Coup, like a thunderclap heard throughout South Viet Nam, stunned the puppet administration and frightened puppet troops into disintegration. Several enemy posts were abandoned one after another, and a great many Saigon troops, listening to their families' and the people's exhortations, went over the hill or crossed over to the revolutionary side, bringing along their arms.

The local people were fired by the successful coup into liquidating thugs, smashing the enemy rule and wresting back control of the countryside, and encouraging their sons and brothers to join the revolutionary armed forces.

The Tua Hai victors, forerunners of the Liberation Armed Forces in East Nam Bo (South Viet Nam proper), later became the latter's main unit which, together with other revolutionary armed forces, repeatedly won electrifying engagements at Phuoc Vinh, Dong Xoai, Dat Cuoc, Bau Bang...

Following the Tua Hai Victory, the South Viet Nam revolutionary armed forces have been undergoing a steady growth, inflicting a series of reverses on the US and puppet troops and have now become the invincible South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

THUAN-KIEU

Indomitable SAIGON

STUDENTS AND PUPILS' NEW PROTEST

Pupils of the Chu Van An School publicly protested against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem rule's brutalities against their school mates on January 9, 1971.

The Saigon Students' Union denounced the administration's police encirclement of the Minh Mang Students' Quarter, preventing of students' and pupils' year-end festival and attempt to split the students' ranks by planting puppet agents in the new Executive Committee of the Students' Quarter.

MORE WORKERS' STRIKES

Workers at the Thanh Truc Enterprise scored their bosses' insults, threat and use of hooligans to keep them from entering their workplaces.

More than 50 Saigon Trade Unions decided to down tools from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. on January 22 in support of the Workers at the Thanh Truc Enterprise. The Union of the workers of the Viet Nam Air Line went on strike from 7 to 13 hours on the same day, bringing the Company's activities to a standstill.

PEASANTS' DEMONSTRATION

Peasants in a number of villages near Saigon demonstrated on the afternoon of January 29 in front of the Saigon House of Representatives against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta's appropriation of their land. Many bonzes and mass-organizations in Saigon such as the Committee to Defend the Women's Right to Live, the Popular Front for the Fight For Peace... took part in the march. Two women "deputies" — Kieu Mong Thu and Tran Kim Thoa — also joined in the action. Police used tear-gas grenades against the marchers and abducted many of them including Mme Ngo Ba Thanh, President of the Committee to Defend the Women's Right to Live, and Mr Dang Van Ky, President of the Popular Front for the Fight for Peace. But later because of popular protest, the puppet administration had to release them.

PUPPET DISABLED ARMYMEN'S CONTINUED UNREST

On the morning of January 27, 1971 the Lunar New Year Day, a group of puppet war invalids gathered in front of the Saigon House of Representatives displaying black streamers pressing for the liberty of their leaders arrested recently and better living conditions. They decided to fast until their demands were met.

A NEW AND EXTREMELY SERIOUS STEP OF WAR ESCALATION OF THE US IMPERIALISTS IN LAOS

(Statement of RSVN PRG on US-puppet aggression against Laos and war expansion in Indochina)

THE US imperialists are undertaking new and extremely serious military adventures on all battlefields in Indochina, particularly in Laos in the hope of making good their heavy setbacks in the war against the peoples of the Indochinese countries.

In the past few days, under direct US command and with intensive support of US aircraft including B.52 strategic bombers, a very big force of US and Saigon puppet troops, in coordination with the Vientiane puppet troops, chiefly Vang Pao's "special forces" and Thai mercenaries, has been conducting large-scale aggressive attacks against Laos.

In Cambodia, the US imperialists have rushed the Saigon puppet troops backed by US air forces to conduct a new campaign against the liberated areas in the Northeastern part of the country. In South Viet Nam, the US imperialists have stepped up their plan of "special pacification," launched military operations in many places and a large-scale sweep involving tens of thousands of US-puppet troops in Quang Tri province, committing untold crimes against the South Vietnamese people. Meanwhile, they have repeatedly violated the air space and territorial waters of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and bombed, strafed and spread poisonous chemicals on many places in its Southern part. At present with the massing of troops next to the 17th parallel, the US imperialists are planning new war acts into the territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

To cover up their crimes and to mislead and soothe public opinion, the Nixon administration has resorted to distortions and lies on the nature, aim, timing and places of its operations and the scale of US participation. But it can decieve no one.

It is obvious that the US imperialists are perpetrating a new and extremely serious step of war escalation in Indochina in furtherance of a long premeditated plan to realize their "Nixon doctrine" of using "Indochinese to fight Indochinese, Asians to fight Asians." Reality has proved that US President Nixon has betrayed his promise to end the war soon made at his inauguration two years ago. Instead he is prolonging, intensifying and expanding the war against the peoples of the three Indochinese countries.

The Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique have shown themselves more clearly to be an odious instrument of the US imperialists' policy of aggression. They have committed innumerable crimes against the South Vietnamese people, and now on order from their US masters are pushing the puppet troops to commit crimes and to die for the US imperialists in Cambodia and Laos.

The US imperialists have grossly violated the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the three Indochinese countries, trampled upon the fundamental principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina and sabotaged the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and all elementary principles of international law, creating an extremely dangerous situation in Indochina, seriously jeopardizing peace in South-East Asia and the world. This is an extremely insolent challenge to world opinion, including the progressive opinion in the United States.

The more obstinately the Nixon administration intensifies and expands the war, the more disastrous setbacks it will sustain. Faithful to the Joint Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples, in the flush of their victorious and strong position will tighten further their combat solidarity, persist in and step up their struggle to smash any scheme and military adventure of the US imperialists and their lackeys, and to bring the just struggle of the peoples of the three Indochinese countries to total victory.

The people and Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam fully support the February 4 Statement of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee, vehemently condemn and severely denounce the US imperialists' and Saigon puppet troops' invasion of Southern Laos and their intensification and expansion of war to the whole of Indochina. The Nixon administration must bear full responsibility for all consequences of their war escalation and expansion.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam earnestly calls on the Governments and peoples of all peace and justice-loving countries in the world, all peace and democratic international organizations and the progressive people in the United States to stay in time the hands of the stubborn US aggressors, and to intensify their support to the patriotic struggle of the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples till total victory."

South Viet Nam, February 5, 1971.

Crossing a village at night

In the depth of night a boat glided toward us,
On the bamboo-covered bank the rising waters were beating.
The scull made the star-studded sky quiver.
A stray bird darted into the shade.
The piragua slipped between the silent palm leaves

Swept by searchlights from blockhouses.
Rifles at the ready, eyes skinned, we waited
For the opportune moment to cross the stream.

Her trousers rolled up thigh-high,
Shivering in the gust of wind from the islet,
The boat girl gave us a hand with our packs
Fragrant with wild flowers, hay and jungle.
When touching her hands we felt the glow of her cheeks,
The warmth of her breath, the nimbleness of her gestures.
In the rustling lapping of the waves,
The heavily-laden sampan was swaying, about to be pushed off.
"Comrade, let me help you...," a voice whispered.
Shaking her head, she veered the prow.
Living in a network of posts and garrisons,
She was wont to lock up joy and sorrow in her heart...

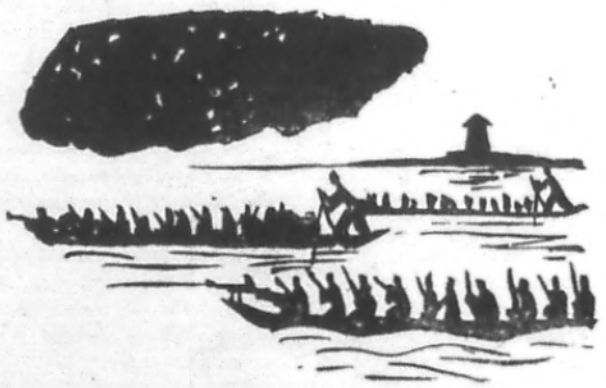
The craft faded into the dark
But the lapping of the tide was still heard.
Her oar again churned up the starry sky,
The rows of palms on the other bank loomed larger, waving welcome.
Her eyes were scanning the watch-tower at the village's entrance.
Her arms kept moving at a swinging rhythm,
Her slender figure dominating the billowing stream.
Another pull and land ho!
The fighters' chests were bursting with joy and tenderness...

An enemy round of shots rang,
And lightning streaked the sable mantle of night.
"Sit tight," she exclaimed, "I'll see to it,"
And the bark bounded in the post's direction.
With bullets whizzing above her head,
Her silhouette stood erect against the sky.
"Sit down, and let us have the scull," we cried.
"No, I can manage alone." The boat only heaved to for a second and slid forth.
Our hearts were gripped by anxiety, our eyes flashed out anger.
They wove a net of fire over the river,
We clenched our teeth and our hands hurt from holding tight our weapons

The boat securely moored to a tree,
We held her hand, loath to depart,
Stammering out, "Thanks...." With a sweet smile,
"As a Youth Union member, I just did my job...," she said,
Then the lithe silhouette vanished into the shadow.
Our hearts throbbing to the rhythm of her swift steps,
We resumed our night march through the village.

To-morrow in the charge on the adverse position,
This vision of unsung valour would sinew our arms.

GIANG NAM
September 1962



From the Second HAVANA Manifesto
TO THE PRESENT REVOLUTIONARY TURMOIL IN LATIN AMERICA

"TODAY, revolution is something inevitable in Latin America. It does not depend on anybody's will and is the reaction against the very harsh exploitation to which the Latin American peoples are subjected. It is an expression of the high revolutionary spirit of the masses, and a sequel of the crisis faced by imperialism and the struggle of enslaved peoples all over the world," such was the assessment made in the Second Havana manifesto.

Since its publication, this pronouncement has been a scathing verdict against US imperialism and also a document of great militancy inspiring the Latin American countries' fight against US imperialism.

Since long, the US imperialists — the enemy number one of the peoples of Latin America — have been nursing the ambition of turning the Latin American countries into US new-type colonies. Every effort has been made to control their sources of raw materials and their foreign trade, which has rendered their economy lopsided and caused heavy deficits to their finances. The US imperialists have frenziedly countered the Cuban revolution, brazenly occupied the Panama Canal, intervened by force of arms in the internal affairs of Santo Domingo, staged a *coup d'état* in Bolovia, plotted the assassination of leaders of Latin American countries and left no stone unturned to crush the revolutionary movement there.

However the Latin American peoples who during nearly two centuries have heroically resisted the colonialists, the latifundia owners and compradore capitalists, have come to an increasing realization of the aggressive nature of US imperialism and have put up a multiform struggle.

Over the last few years, a powerful revolutionary upsurge has been sweeping all over Latin America, drawing into its ranks hundreds of millions of people including workers, farmers, students and intellectuals eager to defend freedom democracy and their right to live.

Armed fighting has erupted in Colombia, Guatemala, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, marking a big stride in the national liberation movement in the area.

The large-scale strikes staged by workers in Argentina, Venezuela, Ecuador, Uruguay, Panama; the demonstrations against exploitation; the peasants' occupation of latifundia in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela and Uruguay; the spirited demonstrations for national rights, democracy and social progress held by students, intellectuals and townsfolks in various countries in Latin America, developments which have shaken to their foundations the reactionary militarist regimes of US placemen in Latin America and led to the formation of the democratic united government in Chile, have been advances of the revolutionary movement in Latin America and corroborated the previsions of the Havana manifesto.

The steady progress made by the Cuban Republic, the standard-bearer of the revolutionary movement in Latin America, and the establishment of the democratic united government in Chile last year, have been staggering blows at US imperialism and a strong fillip to the anti-imperialist and democratic forces in Latin America and in the world.

Today, the slogans urging the ousting of the US "Peace Corps" and the "US advisory missions" can be seen in all capital cities in Latin America together with such watchwords as "US pull out of Latin America," "Down with US imperialism"... Many Companies of US monopolies have been nationalized by the governments of Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Mexico...

The Latin American peoples are perfectly aware that they are sharing the same combat trench against US imperialism. They have been bound together in the defence of Cuba and in the opposition to US armed intervention in Dominica and particularly in the protection of the present democratic regime in Chile.

Their determination to fight US imperialism has just been highlighted again by the unanimous resolution passed by a recent meeting of 19 countries in Latin America to defend their territorial waters against intrusion of US corsairs.

Having a common foe—US imperialism—the peoples of Latin America, including Cuba, have staunchly supported the Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression.

They have afforded us every assistance in the form of solidarity weeks with Viet Nam, collections of money, medicines, clothes, foodstuffs... They have organized many hundred-thousand-strong meetings and demonstrations for an end to the Viet Nam war and repatriation of GIs, and in support of the South Viet Nam NFL. The recent congress to merge TU organizations in Latin America has approved a resolution to convene this year a conference to support the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples against US aggression.

Under the impact of this mounting trepidation in Latin America, the US imperialists have resorted to every vicious scheme such as repression, division and deception to sap it and to preserve their "backyard" which is no longer safe for them. As the Second Havana manifesto has pointed out, "no people in Latin America are alone, because they are members of a family of 200 million brothers and sisters who share weal and woe, the same enemy and a similar longing for a bright future." The Latin American peoples enjoy at present the support and assistance of all men and women of feeling in the world.

The South Vietnamese people have been highly gratified by the signal successes of the revolutionary drive in Latin America. They strongly condemn the US policy of aggression and expansion in Latin America and wholeheartedly associate themselves with the righteous effort of the Latin American peoples.

The latter's exertion for genuine independence, freedom and social progress has contributed most substantially to world peoples' struggle against US imperialism and will certainly win final victory.

International Day of Solidarity with the Angolan People (February 4)

Ten years of grim fighting

ON February 4, 1961, the history of Angola recorded a dramatic development: The national-liberation movement of the Angolan people shifted to a stage of do-or-die struggle against the enemy. This was the first armed action against the Portuguese colonialists in Africa.

Over the past ten years, upholding the tradition of more than four hundred years' unyielding resistance against the Portuguese colonialists' domination, the Angolan people led by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola have kept up their effort with ever greater success, particularly since 1963. Apart from the Northern Front, they opened the Cabinda Front in 1964, the Eastern Front in 1967 which was to spread to the Centre and the Northeast. Today the PMLA is controlling one-third of the territory, including the whole district of Moxico and part of the districts of Luanda, Cuanza-Norte, Uige, Zaire, Cabinda, Cuando-Cubango, Lunda, Malange and Bie. The Movement's leading body which was set up abroad has moved home to supply direct guidance to the people's resistance. In many places, people's power has been established to look after production and the fighting. The liberated zone has been consolidated to cope with the enemy's mopping-ups, and encroachments.

The steady growth of the Angolan patriotic forces has greatly alarmed the Portuguese colonialists. However, the latter have been trying hard to cling to their colony, with its wealth of diamonds, iron and oil. Moreover, they have joined hands with the racists in South Africa, Rhodesia, and asked for military aid from the US imperialists and other imperialists in the NATO bloc to savagely repress the Angolan people. They have raised the strength of their army from 30,000 in 1961 to 100,000 in 1969. They have resorted to every scheme to buy over, deceive and divide, the Angolans while levelling with napalm their villages and herding their population into concentration camps in an attempt to isolate the patriotic armed forces. Recently, the weekly Jeune Afrique *has revealed a plan of the US representatives in Lisbon and Luanda and the Portuguese colonialists to use toxic chemicals against the Angolans as the USA has been doing in Viet Nam.*

But all these schemes and manœuvres cannot stamp out the patriotic effervescence of the Angolan people. Aware of the foul tricks of the Portuguese colonialists, the US imperialists and their followers, the latter are heightening their vigilance and pouring their anger into ever more devastating attacks on the enemy.

Having the same ideal of independence and freedom, and being in the common front against the imperialist aggressors headed by the US imperialists, the South Viet Nam people fully support the just struggle of the fraternal Angolan people, draw great joy from their successes over the past ten years and are confident that, under the leadership of the PMLA, they will strengthen their unity, step up their fighting, certainly drive out the aggressors from their country and liberate their nation.

On February 4, 1971, the Lao Patriotic Front has delivered a Statement condemning the invasion of Southern Laos by the US and Saigon puppet forces.

We print below the full text:

THE LPF CONDEMNS
the invasion of Southern Laos by the US and Saigon puppet forces

THE US imperialists and South Vietnamese puppet troops are taking a new and extremely serious military adventure by invading Laos on a large scale.

They have mobilized a very big force of Saigon para-troops, marines and rangers and a considerable US motorized, armoured and air force to attack the liberated zone in southern Laos. These forces, co-ordinating with the Vientiane puppet army, chiefly Vang Pao's "special forces," and with two regiments of the 3rd infantry division and a number of artillery and rangers battalions of the Thai army, under the cover of US aircraft, including B.52s, and under US direct command, are playing havoc to Laos and savagely massacring its people.

To stave off strong public condemnation, the White House and Pentagon ringleaders are trying to hush up the truth, mislead and appease public opinion by making round-about and deceptive contentions about the objective, duration and nature of the US aggressive operation against Laos. But they could deceive nobody and their warmongering feature has become clearer than ever before.

By engaging in the aforesaid military adventure, the US imperialists are obviously taking a new and extremely serious step of escalation in their aggressive war against Laos and the other Indochinese countries in accordance with a long premediated plan to further the Nixon doctrine of "making Asians fight Asians." This act totally undermines the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, tramples upon the independence and neutrality of this country, creates an extremely dangerous situation and seriously menaces the security in South-East Asia as a whole. This is a new and very impudent challenge to the Lao people, to the brother peoples of Indochina and to the peace- and justice-loving peoples in the world including the progressive people in the United States.

The Lao Patriotic Front energetically denounces to public opinion at large and condemns the new adventurous war act of the US and its Saigon lackeys against Laos.

The Lao Patriotic Front sternly warns the US and its flunkeys and declares that the latter must assume full responsibility for all consequences arising from their acts of war intensification and expansion.

In view of the current extremely serious situation, the Lao Patriotic Front urgently calls on the armed forces and people throughout the country to firmly rise up and resolutely deal at the US aggressors and their henchmen well-deserved blows, and resolutely defeat all the latter's new military plans. The Lao Patriotic Front is firmly convinced that with the Lao armed forces and people's determination to fight and with the invincible strength of the militant solidarity of the three fraternal peoples of Indochina, the Lao armed forces and people will certainly defeat every aggressive scheme of the US to defend the sovereignty, independence and neutrality of their country.

The Lao Patriotic Front urgently calls on the peace-loving governments and peoples in the world to take timely and drastic actions to force the US and its henchmen to stop immediately their aggressive operation.

NIXON'S TWO DISMAL YEARS OF WAR PROSECUTION

TWO years ago, in the midst of the American people's sweeping protest against the US aggressive war in Viet Nam, Richard Nixon stepped into the White House with honeyed promises: an early end to the war, restoration of peace, maintenance of social order, termination of inflation, a sounder economy, so on and so forth. A halt to the Viet Nam War was the tenor of his electoral campaign. What has he done to live up to his commitments to the American people, especially to stop the "dirty war"?

First and foremost, he only made empty protestations of "peace goodwill" in a host of speeches, messages, press conferences, TV press interviews and trips to Asia and Europe to woo US allies and satellites. From his election pledge in Florida on October 14, 1968 to "end the war within six months," to his eight-point peace program on May 14, 1969, and his five-point peace plan on October 7, 1970, the US President's behaviour has been peace in words and war in deeds. Of this, the prosecution of the hostilities in South Viet Nam and their expansion throughout Indochina have been undeniable proofs.

Clearly enough, Nixon has not merely been following the unfortunate path trodden by Lyndon Johnson, he has even embittered and widened the conflict more than ever. And in order to placate American and world opinion, he ballyhooed his troop withdrawals as best he could, although in two years of office he did not bring home half of the US build-up in South Viet Nam. According to Western news agencies, the aggregate American, Saigon and satellite strength in this country is not smaller than it used to be before the cut-backs started. This does not include the 18,000 men of the Seventh Fleet and those of the Air Force stationed in Thailand, among whom B 52 squadrons, taking a direct part everyday in the fighting against South Viet Nam.

Instead the stepped-up use of the US Air Force, Navy artillery and toxic gases and chemical agents has wiped out entire areas, "rural pacification" has been pushed up to herd the population into "strategic hamlets," hundreds of thousands of people from old-agers to newly-born babies have been massacred and townsfolk repressed in the most ruthless fashion.

Equally obviously, Nixon's token troop pull-outs have by no means lessened the scale and intensity of US aggression. He claimed he had reduced the role of US combat troops and "cut down casualties" of the expeditionary force; yet his piecemeal withdrawal have not prevented the US casualty list from lengthening, American families from having to mourn death and separation, and people of all walks of life from going on defraying war spending. Not only has Nixon prolonged the conflict in South Viet Nam, but he has even escalated it in Laos, and into Cambodia, and embarked in repeated military ventures against the DRVN.

At the Paris Conference, after a hundred sessions, the US is still denying the people of South Viet Nam their fundamental national rights and the right to self-determination, and shirking every basic problem which should be resolved if a sound settlement of the South Vietnamese issue is to be achieved, as has been put forward by the NFL and the PRG in their 10-point overall solution and 8-point elucidation of this.

Nixon has been sticking to his absurd "mutual withdrawal" position, unwilling to pull US and satellite troops out of South Viet Nam so as to let the South Vietnamese people settle their own affairs without foreign interference. He has also been trying to rouse public opinion over the so-called "war prisoner" and "ceasefire" questions, hoping to divert it from odious crimes originating from his policy of prolonging and expanding the war. He has switched into full gear his psywar media over fabricated military wins and progress of "Vietnamization" and "pacification." It has been his contention that extending the conflict to Cambodia, intensifying aggression in Laos and striking at North Viet Nam from the air, are aimed at "saving the lives of American troops in South Viet Nam"!

However clever he might be, Nixon could not obscure hard facts: in his two years of office he pushed up, protracted and broadened the US aggressive war, and suffered heavy setbacks on the three Indochinese theatres, especially in South Viet Nam where he has been implementing "Vietnamization," part of the doctrine bearing his own name. He has been entertaining the illusion of securing a position of strength with concrete and steel, bombs and shells, toxic gases and chemical agents, allegedly to realize troop withdrawals and set objectives. However, the longer and the wider the war becomes, the heavier the failures of the United States and the more precarious its position grows. One million men, including 345,000 of the United States and its satellites, put out of action in South Viet Nam in the past two years, will not be the last punishing blow for Nixon's warlike actions.

Nixon has been bending efforts toward raising political assets of Thieu-Ky-Khiem and reactionary political factions in Saigon so as to impose US neo-colonialist rule on South Viet Nam. Yet, like traders at the eleventh hour, the more bitterly his lackeys compete with one another, the more pitilessly they cut one another's throats, the more seriously they aggravate their dissension and rottenness. There is however every indication that Nixon will cling to the Saigon ruling junta at any cost, in defiance of the South Vietnamese people's claim for repatriation of American troops, scrapping of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem troika and formation of a peace cabinet.

Refusing to withdraw totally and unconditionally US and satellite forces, and to give up the bellicose and abhorred Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime so that the people of South Viet Nam may resolve themselves their own problems, Nixon dreams nevertheless of a second term and of thereby staying on as President of the United States on her 200th founding anniversary. He is really out of touch with American opinion.

The very card that helped him into the White House is now pushing him out, because of his warlike actions and obstinate stance.

At mid-term Nixon's seat is gravely shaken. Should he not draw the lessons of his two years' office, he will have to bow out with less dignity than his predecessor.

Pentagon-type Vietnamization
Drawing by **V. Tchernikov**

US chemical warfare universally condemned

THE Paris Conference of scientists held on December 12, 1970 to consider US chemical warfare in Viet Nam commanded attention in many respects.

First of all, it was the first meeting entirely devoted to the US chemical warfare, although previously many international conferences incidentally had critically dealt with it. It helped enlighten a number of scientists who so far had for one reason or another not associated themselves with the anti-US Viet Nam war drive.

The Conference was held right after the Nixon administration had announced the ban from April 1970 onward on the use of 2,4,5-T or Orange 2.4-D while press reports affirmed that the US Americal Division in South Viet Nam had been resorting to it in its operations. The assembly was an occasion for scientists in the world to bring to light a subject which had alarmed European and American scientific circles after the disclosure of the disastrous effects of 2,4,5-T on pregnant women likely to have miscarriages or to give birth to monsters.

Another of its highlights was Vietnamese scientists' new data collected right on the battlefield, whereas scientists from many countries including American scientists who had gone on fact-finding tours in South Viet Nam also submitted reports on the sequels of toxic chemicals and poison gases.

In our opinion, the Conference was a great success. Not because two weeks later Nixon had to officially declare a halt to the so-called "clearing" campaign in Spring 1971, for we all know too well that it was but a customary trick of the US President, but because of the awakening, as repercussions of its findings, of the scientific circles in particular and the world opinion in general to the seriousness of the US imperialists' crimes. Every man of conscience had previously condemned chemical warfare for long prohibited by international law. Now the public at large has realized that US chemical warfare in Viet Nam strikes not only at the present generations of Vietnamese but also at future generations as well. These are crimes unheard of in any war, even in Hitler's times.

The Saigon press has reported many cases of deformed babies born of mothers exposed to toxic chemicals. The Bionetics Laboratory in the United States found after repeated experiments that "Orange" 2, 4, 5-T caused deformities in offsprings of rats and mice. The report of this laboratory had been "suppressed" until October 1969 when a number of anti-war students and Professor Meselson divulged it to a shocked public.

At the Paris gathering, Vietnamese scientists reported on the effects of toxic chemicals on affected pregnant women and children. Results of tests illustrated by films and pictures were shown to the participants which aroused a feeling of horror among nearly 100 scientists from 14 countries, including many Nobel prize winners.

The resolution of the assembly strongly denounced the US imperialists' use of Viet Nam, and actually of the whole of Indochina as a laboratory for their chemical weapons. It castigated US chemical warfare in Viet Nam as a crime of a genocidal character. To all scientists of the world, it made clear the US misuse of science and technology and it appealed to world opinion to militate for an immediate end to US chemical warfare, and to US war of aggression in Indochina. At the same time it urged the world to help the Vietnamese people in their search for means to combat the consequences of the US chemical weapons.

Remarkably enough, American scientists informed the Conference that on December 28, 1970 a scientific symposium on chemical warfare would be held in the United States, which was eventually convened as scheduled and Professor Meselson back from US-puppet controlled areas in South Viet Nam presented data which constituted by themselves a cogent indictment of US offences. How noble of US intellectuals who really have at heart mankind's welfare and genuine peace!

The Paris Conference not only drew the attention of scientific circles but also of broad public opinion. Such Paris influential papers as *l'Humanité*, *Le Monde* ran many articles on it. The right-wing paper *Le Figaro* also printed a relatively factual story on US atrocities. The Vietnamese residents in France followed with keen interest the Conference's work. Many scientists of their number like Professors Buu Hoi, Nguyen Dat Xuong, Nguyen Thanh Xuan, Pham Huu Chanh, etc., also took part in the discussions. The Vietnamese nationals were utterly horrified by the US-puppet use of women, children and other fellow-countrymen of theirs as guinea pigs.

We take this opportunity to say a few words to Vietnamese intellectuals and scientists in the US-puppet occupied zones. Surely you share the strong feeling of your counterparts in the world. You may have had opportunities to see the hardwood jungles and lush vegetation of our country devastated by US toxic chemicals or to examine some of their victims. It is imperative that you co-operate with scientists of other countries in finding out the truth about these crimes. There are plenty of witnesses and evidence on this score. Your voices will help check the US imperialists' brutal war methods. Of course you also are in a position to study various kinds of treatment to give your poisoned countrymen.

As pointed out by a scientist at the Paris scientific Conference, chemical weapons are the weapons of the weak. Obviously the deeper they get bogged down in their losing position the more frantic the US imperialists will become. But we firmly believe that however stubborn and cruel, the enemy cannot break the unbending spirit of our people and army and cannot ward off their own total defeat.

We believe that the vitality of our nation is boundless that the jungles and vegetation of our country are imperishable and that we shall make good all the damage caused by US weapons to our people and country. That is also the conviction of the world scientists and of the whole progressive mankind.

Prof **NGUYEN VAN HIEU**
Head of RSVN Scientific Delegation at the Paris Conference of Scientists.

January 1971:

SUBSTANTIAL GAINS IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA

IN LAOS:

According to KPL initial reports in January 1971, the Lao people and armed forces wiped out over 1,000 enemy troops including 300 of Thailand and many officers, captured or destroyed some 400 guns of various calibres.

In Upper Laos, 3 battalions of the US-Vang Pao 24th mobile regiment stationed in San Cho - Ban Ban suffered over 500 casualties. LPLAF counter-attack in the South and the North of the Sam Thong - Long Cheng area proved devastating for the adversary.

In spite of US round - the - clock bombings, the Lao army and people launched tens of assaults on enemy positions in Huoi Sai, knocked out or disbanded more than 300 Thai troops. Besides, the enemy Pak Song position in Central Boloven came under artillery fire while the enemy forces were forced to withdraw from Inthi and Height PS38 in East Boloven.

In Central Laos, the Pha Lan district town and surrounding areas (Savannakhet province) were liberated and a toll of 100 enemy troops taken.

The guerillas and regional forces also stepped up their activity in Upper Laos and in the enemy rear, beat off several adverse raids and operations in Siphandone, Borikhamsay, Luang Prabang provinces. Together with the people's demonstration against impress and draft of youth, these military operations culminated in the liberation of some localities.

IN CAMBODIA:

The Cambodian armed forces and people, in the early days of 1971, mounted series of fierce assaults on the enemy chiefly those along Highway 4 and on the Pochentong airfield. In these clashes, 8 battalions and two armoured car squadrons were wiped out or heavily depleted, nearly all enemy forces in the airfield were put out of action.

In 15 days begining January 1, 1971, the Cambodian army and people wiped out nearly 1,500 adverse soldiers, 4 Lon Nol puppet battalions, one artillery company and two Saigon puppet armoured car squadrons supported by US air force and the 7th fleet.

For three days running later, from January 18 to 20, 500 Saigon and Phnom Penh troops were knocked out in the Pich Nil pass and the remaining force was put to flight.

In coordination with the actions on Highway 4, the Cambodian NFL fiercely intercepted enemy convoys on the Mekong river, sank dozens of cargoships, paralising the Saigon — Phnom Penh river traffic. Within January 5 and 15, 21 enemy vessels were sent to the bottom and hundreds of enemy troops wounded. Simultaneous attacks were made by the CNLF throughout provinces as Kompong Cham, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kampot, TaKeo, Kandal, Kompong Thom, Battambang, etc. As a result, many enemy units at battalion level were written off like the 167th battalion on Kompong Trach — Pong Tuk road with more than 300 men knocked out and 6 military transportation cars seized.

On the night of January 21, the CNLF again mounted assaults on Phnom Penh and the surrounding areas including the Pochentong airfield, the Lon Nol navy base, the fuel dump on the Tonle Sap river, the Saigon Embassy and many other important positions.

Chiefly in Pochentong airfield, 750 enemy troops were killed or wounded. These casualties included the battalion guarding the airfield and almost all the pilots and technicians on duty at the airfield. More than 90 aircraft of various kinds were destroyed.

Meanwhile the guerilla movement was widely stepped up, cut off enemy communication lines, like Highways 5,2, 3, etc., intercepting enemy operations, inflicting hundreds of casualties.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION